


Special Education Policy for Primary Education

PROF. SHAKUNTLA DUBEY¹

ABSTRACT

The Special education is first and foremost individualized education which needs support of technically trained professionals, enlightened and committed parents/caretakers and community at large. Otherwise commercialization of education may lead to labeling slow learner as mentally retarded. The readiness to learn is an important concept in teaching-learning process. Slow learning due to sensory, motor, neurological deficit or other causes in the child needs early evaluation & intervention. Not early labeling and segregation which promotes maladjustment and life long dependence on community resources. Special education input needs trained teachers' empathetic understanding of special needs of a disabled child in terms of strength and weaknesses as well as resources in the school system for making appropriate technology accessible accordingly for short term and long term measures of intervention, provide only restoration and rehabilitation. This will need not only professional help, money, technology but also micro and macro level of systemic planning in education by our government in order to provide right of education to every child.

Education is a right of every child in the country but are we prepared to provide when Specialized Education is first and foremost individualized education mostly supervised by technically trained number of professionals and teachers sponsored by the State/ Central Education department without charging any fees. Readiness to learn is an important concept in the teaching –learning process. As this term suggests, there is time for preparedness to learn, that time comes when child's physical, neural, intellectual, social and emotional development have advanced and enable him/her to be ready to learn with relative ease. Also involved are his environmental factors and the method of teaching. Obviously, treat all children as with unique disposition and individual needs. Labeling children and discriminating at an early age brings more problems in later adjustment in life; provide restoration and more appropriate rehabilitation and education.

¹  Professor in Clinical Psychology Department, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
Life Executive Member, Manobal Study Society.

Educational System – An Overview

In our country education is a state subject. In terms of education system to provide equipment's resources, including building, social and community participation to those schools run by the State or given aid or recognized private/public institutions by the respective State Board of Education. Experience suggests that it is easier to find substitutes for the educated, not the properly trained educators in the country. The abysmal literacy rates in our country are attributable to the absence of teachers. Apart from migration of good teachers to rich countries for better livelihood, this profession in our country still demands sacrifices to be made; the position of teachers in the Indian Social hierarchy was never dictated by their income. The Guru is a moral influence. He mould minds and shapes the Society. The aim of education is to help the child to develop his intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, moral and spiritual being (Sri Aurobindo). Is it possible to impart such goals by meeting a huge funding gap of Rs. 12000 crores in implementing the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and its mid-day meal schemes in the next five year without framing the policy: why out of every ten children one child (a rough estimate) is unable to learn and lags behind? No use to shout out them to pay attention. If the situation, the materials, the problems before the child do not interest him/her attention will slip off. Apart from the physically handicapped whose handicap is obvious and gains special attention of the teacher and provided with appropriate advanced technical devices, there is a group of learning-disabled children who need the so called remedial education since they have a wide variety of individual needs, sometimes linked to psychological or physical or both factors which calls for skilled and discriminating attention by trained assessment staff, the devising of suitable programs and the organization of group or individual teaching in general school setting or special classes.